(b) if so, details of the steps the Government propose to take for early construction and completion of the said bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The delay was due to unexpected ground conditions necessitating a major change in design. An alternative proposal has since been approved. The works have now commenced and the bridge is expected to be completed by December, 1994.

**Collection of Toll Tax on National Highways in Kerala**

6063. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bridge under construction on National Highway Nos. 47 and 17 which pass through Kerala;

(b) the details of the proposals for the construction of bridges on these Highways in future; and

(c) the total amount of toll tax collection on the bridge at Kottappuram on National Highway 17 and on the bridges at Cherthala bye-pass on National Highways 47 during the last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There is no bridge under construction on NH 47 in Kerala. There are two bridges under construction on NH 17 in Kerala, namely Cherupalam bridge costing Rs. 19.92 lakhs and Rail over bridge including viaducts and approaches near Kuttipuram for which Road Authority's share is Rs. 127.91 lakhs.

(b) The details of proposals of the construction of bridges on these Highways in future are not known at this stage as Eighth Plan outlay for National Highways is yet to be finalised.

(c) A sum of Rs. 23.16 lakhs has been collected as toll tax on Kottapuram bridge on Nh 17 during 1990-91. There is no bridge on Cherthala bypass on Nh 47.

**IDBI-Assisted Companies**

6064. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial development Bank of India study on overall performance of assisted companies shows declaration in the growth rate of sales, output and profitability in 1991 compared with last year despite a favorable investment plan aid;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the study report of the Industrial Development Bank of India in this regard;

(c) if so, the main factors responsible for this;

(d) the steps being considered by the Government to meet the situation and whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been made during the annual plan of 1992-93; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e). With a view to providing an indication of the performances of the corporate sector as a whole, IDBI has been analysing the financial performance of assisted companies in the private corporate

sector in an yearly basis as part of an on-going exercise. The latest study in this series titled 'Financial performance of IDBI Assisted Companies in the Private Corporate Sector 1990-91" analyses on a 3 year trend basis, covering the period 1988-89 to 1990-91, the working of a simple of 401 IDBI assisted companies based on their financial results, Though the Study reveals an all round improvement in the performance registered by the sample companies during 1990-91, it also indicates deceleration in the growth rate of sales, output and profitability ratios as compared to the performance in 1989-90.

On an analysis of the study it is felt that deceleration in the rate of growth of sales, gross profit, operating profit and profit after tax is not unexpected because due to increase in the size of the base and difficulties in increasing the market shares, rates of growth cannot be maintained. Further the exceptionally high growth rates in gross profits, operating profits, profits after tax are indicative of an excellent selection criteria of IDBI and do not indicate any worsening of performance.

In fact the study reveals that the financial ratios maintained by the sampled companies are good and are thus indicative of the sound health of these companies as would be observed from the following data:

(i) The number of companies with negative rate of return has gone down from 27 in 1988-89 to 16 in 1989-90 and 11 in 1990-91.

(ii) The number of companies earning more than 20% rate of return has increased from 111 in 1988 to 145 in 1989-90 and 150 in 1990-91.

(iii) The rate of growth gross capital employed and gross fixed assets has increased. This demonstrates great confidence of the companies in their future prospects and reveals that future growth is expected.

In the light of the above facts there does not appear to be a need for the Government to take any specific steps in this regard. The far-reaching structural changes encompassing industrial and trade polices initiated by the Government are expected to activate industrial growth.

**Projects Funded by ADB**

6065. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Industry is witnessing a steady decline in begging projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Governent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The award of contracts under International Competitive Bidding procedure followed by Asian Development Bank varies on the basis of the type and number of tenders flouted which are suitable for Indian bidders, and the quality and competitiveness of the bids submitted. Government of India requests ADB to regularly conduct Business Opportunity Seminars, in order to educate Indian bidders regarding the procurement procedures of the Asian Development Bank.

As per the information furnished by the ADB during the latest ADB Business Opportunities Seminar held in New Delhi on 26.2.92, the cumulative amount of contracts awarded to Indian bidders under ADB funded projects